



King County

Community and Human Services



2003 Annual Report



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

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Message from the County Executive

I am pleased to present the 2003 Annual Report of the King County Department of Community and Human Services.

Each and every day, the Department of Community and Human Services and their many partners reach out to provide services that help people across our region achieve and maintain more independent and meaningful lives. As King County Executive, I am especially proud of the achievements that improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable residents including:

- Increased options for affordable housing across King County for low-income and special needs individuals and families
- Supported employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities
- Innovative and effective programs that help at-risk youth get their lives back on track, complete their education and build job skills for the future
- Vocational services to help dislocated workers find new employment in a changing economy
- Mental health and substance abuse services that serve as alternatives to incarceration, improve public safety and reduce criminal justice costs.

Particularly in these difficult economic times, we must seek new and creative ways to fund, manage and provide critical human services. The new funding stream I devised to begin this year, which dedicated new solid waste revenues to support community health and human service programs, is an important step in that direction. In 2004, we will focus our efforts on longer-term solutions and enhancing partnerships within the regional human service system to achieve greater stability in the years to come.

Although we have significant work ahead of us, I am confident in the ability of the Department of Community and Human Services to rise to those challenges. I commend them, and the entire human service community, for their dedication and commitment to serving those most in need.

Sincerely,

Ron Sims,
King County Executive

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Cover: Headstart children break ground for the new Kent Family Center. Photos courtesy of King County Housing Authority.



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2003 DCHS Annual Report
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Printed on recycled paper

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At the Developmental Disabilities Legislative Forum

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Community Treatment Alternatives Reducing Criminal Justice Costs

King County has chosen to invest in programs that serve people in the criminal justice system, with the goals of reducing the high costs of incarceration, eliminating the need to build additional corrections facilities, and connecting individuals with the mental health and substance abuse treatment they need to reclaim their lives and futures. Criminal justice alternatives rely on extraordinary partnerships and collaboration between governments, treatment providers, courts, law enforcement, schools, jails, foundations, employers and employment programs, and more. Innovative programs are reducing criminal behavior and costs.

Juvenile Justice Interventions

Juvenile justice efforts began in 1998 with approval of the Juvenile Justice Operational Master Plan. Grant funds were aggressively sought to create programs like: Children and Families In Common, a powerful partnership of parents, providers and the courts that engage families on planning teams that formulate individualized treatment plans for each youth; Reclaiming Futures, a grant targeted to juvenile offenders with substance abuse issues living in three designated high-impact areas, with particular attention to engaging youth of color and youth returning from long-term confinement; and Reinvesting in Youth, a grant focused on “front-end” intervention and prevention measures to reach youth before they get into serious trouble. Programs working closely with King County Juvenile Court include: Functional Family Therapy, designed to work with youth at medium risk for ongoing criminal activity, usually in home or community settings; and Multi-Systemic Therapy, designed for high-risk youth that seeks to remove barriers to cross system services and provides intensive family support. Community based programs include: Project Royal, which targets services to African American youth and other youth of color as a concerted effort to address the disproportionality of youth of color in the juvenile justice system; and New Start, targeted to youth in

gangs or in the justice system focused on education and employment activities with links to supportive services.

We are making a difference. Since 1998 there are 44% fewer juvenile offender filings. Juvenile justice initiatives save King County \$1.5 million annually by closing six detention units. More importantly, young people are returning to school or achieving GEDs and moving to healthier and more promising futures.

Adult Criminal Justice Initiatives

King County is a nationally recognized leader for its cross system collaborations like the Mental Health Court, Drug Diversion Court, and Mentally Ill Offender Community Treatment Program. Yet criminal justice costs remain high. In 2002, the Adult Justice Operational Master Plan was adopted, with new jail use criteria and calling for development of alternatives to the use of secure detention for those significantly impaired by substance abuse and/or mental illness.

The 2003 King County budget dedicated \$2.2 million to develop programs. DCHS convened a cross system planning process in early 2003. The goal was a continuum of services to engage individuals in the jail and connect them to the treatment programs they need to succeed in their communities, including: Improved screening and needs assessments; jail-based criminal justice liaisons to link courts, jail and treatment; co-occurring disorder treatment to coordinate mental health and substance abuse needs; assistance with Medicaid and drug/alcohol treatment applications; intensive outpatient treatment at the Community Center for Alternative Programs operated by King County Community Corrections; housing, methadone and mental health vouchers; and criminal justice and human services cross system training. Most programs were implemented in 2003 with the first outcome data report due September 2004.

Message from the Director

2003 brought both challenges and opportunities for the Department of Community and Human Services and the regional human service system.

Our efforts to create effective community treatment alternatives proved a significant factor in the county’s success in reducing juvenile justice costs. The numbers in detention facilities dropped dramatically. Youth are accessing treatment in lieu of jail time, gaining stability in their home and school situations, and learning job skills that will serve for a lifetime. More recent efforts to build treatment and support services for adults in the criminal justice system are also beginning to yield positive returns, thanks to additional funding we received in 2003 that made possible the development of a new criminal justice continuum of care that links offenders with the treatment they need, rather than costly incarcerations. Those efforts continue to be a focus for this department in 2004.

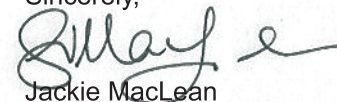
We celebrated the first disbursements from the Regional Affordable Housing Program, the new dedicated funding source approved by the State Legislature in 2002. A strong community effort over many years helped to bring about this important resource for creating more housing opportunities for low-income individuals and families across our region.

In 2003, we were very fortunate to receive a new funding source for human services, developed by King County Executive Ron Sims, that provides stable funding to support many of our county-funded regional programs. Declining county revenues forced us in previous years to reduce or eliminate programs to assist low-income individuals and families. With this new funding, we were able to avoid any cuts to our programs for 2004. I thank the human services providers for their advocacy and support. We now look forward to the final report of the Task Force on Regional Human Services, a citizen advisory group convened by Executive Sims, for their recommendations for creating long-term funding and stability for our human service system.

We have many challenges ahead. We continue to struggle to meet increasing needs in the face of declining revenues, particularly in the areas of mental health and substance abuse. We continue to seek solutions to the extraordinary defense costs for aggravated murder and death penalty cases, even as we work to improve and strengthen our public defense system. We continue to seek ways to create more affordable and special needs housing, particularly for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. We continue to look for better ways to create employment opportunities for at-risk youth, people with disabilities, and those caught in a changing workforce.

I am proud to share with you this 2003 Annual Report celebrating the accomplishments of the dedicated staff of the Department of Community and Human Services and our many community partners. Thank you for your support for our efforts.

Sincerely,



Jackie MacLean

Director, Department of Community and Human Services



Department of Community and Human Services Mission

To enhance the quality of life,
protect rights, and promote the
self-sufficiency of our region’s
diverse individuals, families, and
communities.

Department of Community and Human Services - Introduction

The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), either directly or through agency contracts, provides a broad array of services for the residents of King County: affordable and special needs housing, crisis response, mental health and substance abuse treatment, legal counsel for low-income people, education and work training programs for at-risk youth, vocational and job placement services for adult dislocated workers, early intervention services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays, employment services and supports for youth and adults with developmental disabilities and their families, emergency shelter and legal aid to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, homeless services, home repair assistance for seniors and low-income or disabled people, veterans services, and violence and substance abuse community prevention programs. Our goal is to provide services that meet individual needs, create opportunities for independent and productive lives, and improve and strengthen public safety and the livability of our communities.

Administration

King County is dedicated to sustaining the foundation and coordination of the human service network. The county shares this responsibility with many partners: local, state and federal governments, United Way, public and private agencies, faith communities, schools, foundations, and others.

In the face of decreasing revenues, the county has worked with its partners to define priority areas for resource dedication: community services that support regional coordination, services that help to reduce adult and juvenile justice costs, and those that reach

out to the residents of the unincorporated areas.

The county serves as the local government for the 350,000 residents of its unincorporated areas, and DCHS plays an important role in that effort, providing professional staff support to the six recognized unincorporated area councils, offering an important link between those communities and county government.

DCHS is responsible for strategic planning, policy implementation, fiscal management, oversight and provision of care for the majority of King County's housing and human service programs. It is the second largest human service agency in Washington State, with a total budget of over \$217 million, more than 400 employees, and seven advisory boards. Managing funding from the federal and state governments, the department serves as the Regional Support Network for the publicly funded mental health system, administers publicly funded chemical dependency services, and also manages a significant portion of the state's funding for King County's developmental disabilities services. The department is also responsible for managing the county's mandated public defense services.

Assessment Center; detoxification; outpatient treatment; residential services; outpatient opiate substitution treatment; and employment and housing assistance. A total of 10,204 people were served in detox, opiate substitution, youth outpatient and adult outpatient programs.

The Emergency Services Patrol provides transportation and assistance to public inebriates, responding to 9-1-1 dispatch calls and also providing outreach on Seattle's streets. Many clients are transported to the Dutch Shisler Sobering Support Center, which provides 24-hour assistance including medical emergency, triage, sober housing, and intensive case management. The Shisler Center assisted 2,228 in 2003. MHCADSD contracts with the Alcohol and Drug 24-Hour Help Line to provide crisis response and referrals to treatment. In 2003, they fielded 6,280 calls for assistance.

Expanded Community Treatment Services

Supplemental funding allocated to counties by the state is making it possible to successfully transition long-term patients of Western State Hospital (WSH) to independent living opportunities in the community. Special teams work to develop discharge plans based on each individual's needs. In 2003, King County was able to successfully move 31 individuals from the

hospital to community living.

TOPOFF Tests Disaster Plan – Working closely with the American Red Cross, the Crisis Clinic and service providers, the King County mental health system developed a disaster response plan to improve access to crisis services in the aftermath of a catastrophic event. The plan was tested for the first time during the federally sponsored TOPOFF terrorism exercise staged in Seattle in 2003. A mental health disaster team was dispatched to a mock emergency shelter in White Center where they provided crisis counseling to "survivors." The regional disaster response exercise provided a valuable opportunity to test our emergency coordination.

2003 Consumer Pilot Projects

King County awarded funding to nine consumer pilot projects developed by and for clients of the publicly funded mental health system. Projects included a consumer run café, button making enterprise, consumer library, beading and jewelry making program, cooking/nutrition classes, flexible fitness memberships, computer lab, music therapy class, and construction of a tool shed. MHCADSD also supports a Consumer Training Fund for clients and families to attend conferences and training events.

Unincorporated Area Councils



UAC Annual Joint Community Forum

Unincorporated Area Councils (UACs) were created in 1995 to improve communication between county government and the residents of the county areas not incorporated within city boundaries. DCHS Community Service Representatives serve as liaisons between county government and the six recognized UACs: Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council; Greater Maple Valley Area Council; North Highline Unincorporated Area Council; Upper Bear Creek Community Council; Vashon-Maury Island Community Council; and West Hill Community Council.

Each year, King County Executive Ron Sims hosts an annual joint meeting and community forum bringing together all six UACs including residents of the county's unincorporated areas, UAC council members, members of the Executive's Cabinet and other county staff, and interested citizens to discuss the upcoming budget and any other issues of interest to the residents.

The Joint Forum is co-hosted each year by one of the UACs. The 2003 forum, hosted by Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council near Issaquah, gathered over 200 residents. The annual forum is one of many ways the county works to gather and share information with residents of these communities.

Attending the Developmental Disabilities Legislative Forum. Parent and family participation is a key element of the developmental disability community.



King County Executive Ron Sims and King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng congratulate 2003 Exemplary Service Award honorees. From left: Maleng; Gerald Smith, Career Service; Heather Reitmeier, Systems Integration; Sheila Fries and Rich Liranzo, Shelter Plus Care, Advocacy; Leroy "L.C." Canty, Direct Service; Shirley Havenga and Mike Nielsen, Community Psychiatry Clinic, Service Innovation; and Executive Sims

Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services

The Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division (MHCADSD) is responsible for managing both King County's publicly funded mental health and substance abuse treatment systems. Direct services provided by county staff include assessments for substance abuse services, 24-hour mental health crisis outreach and investigation for involuntary commitment, mental health client services, public inebriate outreach and triage, and investigation for involuntary detention under state chemical abuse statutes. Treatment services are provided through contracts with mental health centers and/or substance abuse treatment agencies.

Mental health services include individual, group and family therapy; case management; crisis intervention; vocational services; medication management; and assistance with housing and other supports. In 2003, mental health services were provided to 34,893 people, a 5% increase over 2002, including 10,378 children, 20,309 adults, and 4,206 older adults. The

2003 Mental Health Report Card noted a 30% decrease since 2001 in the number of non-Medicaid people served - a reflection of the state's reductions to funding and the need to restrict access. The report showed improvement in some outcomes of care including psychiatric symptom stabilization, level of functioning, independent housing, age appropriate activities, and decreasing incarcerations. Telephone crisis response services through the Crisis Clinic offer crisis counseling and referrals to community treatment 24 hours per day. In 2003, they responded to 78,003 calls requesting mental health assistance.

Substance abuse services include financial eligibility and need assessments by the King County



Consumer Pilot Project Funds helped NAMI-Greater Seattle Hoffman House clients construct a new tool shed. Hoffman House was successfully renovated by clients of the mental health system.

Finance

The DCHS 2003 budget totals over \$217 million, with funding from many sources: the federal government, the state of Washington, King County, local cities, and public/private foundations. In 2003, King County devoted over \$21 million of its resources to support human services through DCHS. The county leverages other resources, particularly state and federal dollars in promoting an array of human service programs. In fact, for every dollar that the county devoted to human services in 2003, DCHS obtained an additional \$7.55 from external sources.

2003 Adopted Budget – Funding Sources (in millions)

	CX *	Other County Funds **	State	Federal	Other ***	TOTAL
Community Services Division	\$ 9.73	\$ 4.64	\$ 1.0	\$ 30.07	\$ 6.04	\$ 51.48
Community Services	\$ 8.17	\$ 2.06				\$ 10.23
Housing Programs	\$ 0.42		\$ 0.21	\$ 16.48	\$ 6.01	\$ 23.13
Work Training Programs	\$ 1.14	\$ 2.59	\$ 0.78	\$ 13.59	\$ 0.03	\$ 18.13
Developmental Disabilities	\$ 0.47	\$ 1.30	\$ 13.98	\$ 2.59	\$ 1.22	\$ 19.56
Mental Health/Substance Abuse	\$ 4.51	\$ 3.66	\$ 88.77	\$ 8.33	\$ 6.27	\$ 111.54
Mental Health	\$ 1.50	\$ 3.66	\$ 78.60	\$ 3.76	\$ 6.27	\$ 93.80
Substance Abuse	\$ 3.01		\$ 10.16	\$ 4.57		\$ 17.74
Office of the Public Defender	\$ 26.71	\$ 1.68			\$ 6.13	\$ 34.53
TOTAL	\$ 41.41	\$ 11.29	\$ 103.75	\$ 41.0	\$ 19.66	\$ 217.11
	19%	5%	48%	19%	9%	100%

* King County general fund, including the Children and Family Services Setaside and Criminal Justice funds.

** Other sources of funding direct to King County such as property tax, millage, contributions from other funds, interest income.

*** External funding other than state or federal such as cities and private foundations.

Of the total budget, nearly 81% of total revenues are contracted to community service agencies. Approximately 12% of revenues fund direct services (e.g., mental health and chemical dependency crisis and commitment services, public defense eligibility screening, on site housing repair). The remaining 7% funds the administrative costs of managing the human service system. The chart above shows the contributions from the county's multiple funding sources.



Community Services Division

The Community Services Division provides a wide range of services to improve the lives of families, the elderly, the homeless and those at risk of homelessness, survivors of abuse, veterans, low-income individuals and neighborhoods, and people needing education and training to be more employable for the future.

Aging Program – Local agencies help low-income seniors age 55 years or older achieve and maintain healthier and more independent lives with services like adult day health, CHORE, telephone resource and referral, and other supports. Priority focus is on serving the residents of unincorporated King County. In 2003, the Aging Program served 17,439 older adults.

Community Organizing Program – Community outreach staff work with local neighborhoods to plan and mobilize substance abuse and violence prevention programs. The program awarded over \$49,000 in grants to 66 communities, which were able to leverage over \$146,000 in community match funds, a nearly 1:3 ratio. Over 9,000 residents countywide participated in DCHS-sponsored prevention activities.

Housing and Community Development – Many partners come together to build or preserve safe and affordable housing and improve the livability of low-income neighborhoods. Through the King County Consortium, DCHS administers millions of federal dollars each year on behalf of the county and member cities. In 2003, the Consortium was able to develop 999 housing units across King County. The Housing Opportunity Fund supported by county dollars is used to develop special needs housing for priority populations such as the chronically homeless. In 2003, HOF funds

Office of the Public Defender

2003 marked the 40th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision that affirmed the constitutional right of all people to legal representation when accused of a crime, regardless of the ability to pay. Responsibility for ensuring those rights rests with the Office of the Public Defender (OPD).

OPD provides eligibility screening for over 50,000 cases each year, seven days and four nights a week at 15 locations across King County. OPD contracts with four non-profit law firms that provide the majority of the county's public defense services, administers the contracts and caseloads, and oversees the expert services program.

OPD provides indigent defense services for all felonies and civil commitments; all misdemeanors in unincorporated King County; and some misdemeanors in cities under contract to OPD.

One of the most compelling murder mysteries in US history, the "Green River Killer" evaded capture for more than 20 years. In December



Gary L. Ridgway, accused in the Green River killings of the 1980s, looks over new court documents in Seattle. 2003 photo. Alan Berner/The Seattle Times

2001, police arrested a suspect, Gary Ridgway, subsequently charged with the murders of several local women. The case presented extraordinary

challenges for King County. The volume of information collected by the Green River Task Force was unprecedented, with over one million pages of documents and over 10,000 pieces of forensic evidence. Projected legal costs for the 2005 trial were astronomical. However, prosecutors and the defense attorneys (including a team of public defenders) negotiated a settlement that allowed Ridgway to escape the death penalty in exchange for pleading guilty to 48 counts of aggravated murder, earning a sentence of life without possibility of parole and eliminating the need for a lengthy and costly trial.

The Ridgway case served to highlight the extraordinary financial burden of death penalty and aggravated murder cases on county governments, by far the most costly to defend. The 2003 State Legislature appropriated funds to King County to help defray some costs of the county's aggravated murder caseload, including the Ridgway case. The county will continue to work with the legislature in 2004.

2003 OPD Caseload Distribution

Civil Commitment - Alcohol	77
Drug Diversion	308
Civil Contempt	1,971
Civil Commitment - Mental illness	2,321
At-risk Youth Petitions	2,689
Juvenile Offender	5,959
Dependency	6,209
Seattle Municipal Court	7,473
King County Misdemeanor	7,498
Felony	10,404
TOTAL	44,909

Developmental Disabilities

The Developmental Disabilities Division oversees a range of programs and services for children and adults, as well as supports for their families. Agencies across King County provide early intervention, child development and therapy services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays; community access; employment services including job training and placement; family

supported employment opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities, thanks to a strong network of dedicated community employers. In 2003, King County assisted 770 people achieve and maintain individual supported employment, and another 1,252 people in prevocational training, group supported employment, and community access programs.



The Developmental Disabilities Legislative Forum, an extraordinary community event, brings together well over 500 people and more than 25 King County legislators. Featured here, a banner with the names of over 200 local businesses and organizations that partner with King County to provide supported employment opportunities.

resource coordination; parent training, and consumer advocacy services.

Already a leader in supported employment for adults, the division collaborated with the Work Training Program and the Lake Washington and Issaquah School Districts to provide paid summer work experiences for 32 students with developmental disabilities.

King County continues to be a national leader in creating

The division dedicated considerable effort in 2003 to creating stable housing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities, including providing funding for rehabilitating several units of affordable housing and assisting 93 clients to access special needs housing vouchers. The division also collaborated with community partners to sponsor several multi-cultural gatherings attended by more than 600 people that were designed to increase awareness of available services.



Parkview VI, affordable and accessible housing for people with developmental disabilities, opens in Auburn

Opposite page: Work Training Program provides real work experience

helped create 433 housing units. A new funding source for low-income housing, the Regional Affordable Housing Program, approved its first projects in 2003. The program generates about \$2.3 million annually and brings together the county and all of its cities to allocate funds for a wide range of housing.

The Credit Enhancement Program lends the financial backing of the county to affordable housing financing, lowering costs and creating inducements to include more affordable units. To date, it has helped create/preserve over 500 units of low-income housing at no cost to the county. The Housing Repair Program provides low or no-interest home repairs and disability accommodations and in 2003, they made health and safety improvements to 523 homes owned or rented by low-income families and people with special needs. Community Development Block Grant funds are administered to improve the livability of low-income communities. In 2003, two community facility projects were completed. Homeless assistance programs provided eviction prevention assistance to 197 households, emergency shelter or transitional housing for an additional 1,524 households, and Shelter Plus Care provided 481 permanent supportive housing units for homeless people with disabilities.

Veteran's Program – Low-income veterans and their families receive employment and financial

assistance, mental health and trauma counseling, housing and other supports. A total of 3,028 vets were served in 2003. The Homeless Women Veteran's Project enrolled 51 chronically homeless female vets, providing housing, addiction and mental health treatment.

The Veterans Incarcerated Project, a county-state collaboration, enrolled 170 veterans from the jail and provided direct services to help them stabilize their lives. Outcomes include reduced recidivism and jail costs.

Women's Program – King County maintains its commitment to helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault by contracting for crisis intervention, counseling, legal advocacy, emergency shelter and transitional housing for women and children at risk. The Women's Program assisted 3,033 people in 2003. They sponsored a very successful training for Child Protective Services and DV providers on best practices assisting children and families. The Women's Advisory Board was instrumental in working to change King County jail policies to improve the safety of women being discharged, by releasing women at 6:30 a.m. rather than midnight.



Robyn Wright moves in to her newly remodeled accessible home thanks to the Housing Repair Program



King County is part of a statewide County Veterans Coalition that brings together coordinators and advocates to assess the changing needs of veterans and collaborate on service delivery and design.



NewStart youth serving their community.

At-Risk Youth Work Training Programs – Through partnerships with community agencies, schools, businesses, cities, and others, the Work Training Program provides education and support services to help at-risk youth get their lives back on track and prepare for successful careers and futures. Programs like Youthbuild, YouthSource, NewStart and the Out of School Consortium help youth to earn GEDs and receive valuable on-the-job training. Other programs support youth to remain in school and graduate. In 2003, the Work Training Program served 400 potential high school dropouts through the Stay in School Program. More than 1,200 disadvantaged youth who had dropped out of school were served through the Out of School Youth Consortium and another 435 youth who had dropped out of school were helped in the Youth Opportunity Program.

Dislocated Worker Program/WorkSource Renton Work Training Programs – The Dislocated Worker Program is a comprehensive re-employment program for adults who have lost their jobs through plant closures or downsizing. King County provided assistance to over 4,000 dislocated workers and unemployed adults during 2003. WorkSource Renton is a comprehensive one-stop employment center that offers career counselors, jobs, a computer center, business services and other employment assistance to youth and adults. The dislocated worker program has an 86% job placement rate.

Youth and Family Service Agencies – Services targeted to juvenile justice involved youth and those at highest risk are provided by Youth and Family Service agencies including counseling, case management, gang intervention, drug prevention, treatment and support groups, and education programs. The network supports seven youth shelters that offer a safe alternative to the streets, providing 13,020 bed nights during 2003.



YouthSource students build computer skills.



DCHS Staff Receive Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award

Sadikifu Akina-James and Cheryl Markham received one of the highest recognition from King County government when they were awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award in recognition of their extraordinary efforts throughout 2003 to prevent the closure of a nursing home in Seattle's Central Area that was very important to the local African American community.

At the beginning of 2003, Branch Villa was burdened with debt and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was about to foreclose on the property. An important community resource would have been lost. Taking advantage of a provision in federal law that enabled HUD to sell to a local government, Cheryl and Sadikifu negotiated a deal whereby King County purchased and then immediately resold the property to a service provider committed to preserving the resource for the community.

In his remarks, King County Executive Ron Sims thanked Sadikifu and Cheryl for their "determination, commitment and grace under fire." He added, "There were many points along the way where this effort could have failed. It did not fail because Sadikifu and Cheryl tirelessly led a team that worked through every obstacle and found solutions."

Pictured above, Executive Sims, Sadikifu Akina-James, Director of the Community Services Division, Cheryl Markham, Coordinator for Affordable Housing, and King County Council Chair Larry Phillips.